# *Indigenous People and the Modern World*

An Exhibit at United Nations Headquarters, October - November, 1993

*This Exhibit was produced by the United Nations Department of Public Information (Exhibits Unit), in association with the Centre for Human Rights and Hixon Design Consultants, Inc.*

*It places the struggle for basic human rights by the world's indigenous peoples within the larger struggle for such rights by the whole human family.*

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*The montages of textiles and other materials were created from original pieces produced by indigenous peoples in various parts of the world. They were designed by Phyllis Ressler, Dennis Maust and Pat Augsburger, and constructed by Hmong women living in the United States. They were made possible by financial contributions from:*

**SELFHELP Crafts of the World (United States)**

**Community Aid Abroad TRADING (Australia)**

**SERRV Self-Help Handcrafts (United States)**

**BRIDGEHEAD OXFAM-Canada**

**UNESCO International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (Paris)**

**Consulate General of Canada (New York)**

**TEAM (Germany)**

**Oxfam America**

**The High Foundation (United States)**

**PUEBLO-to-PEOPLE (United States)**

**Alternativ Handel (Norway)**

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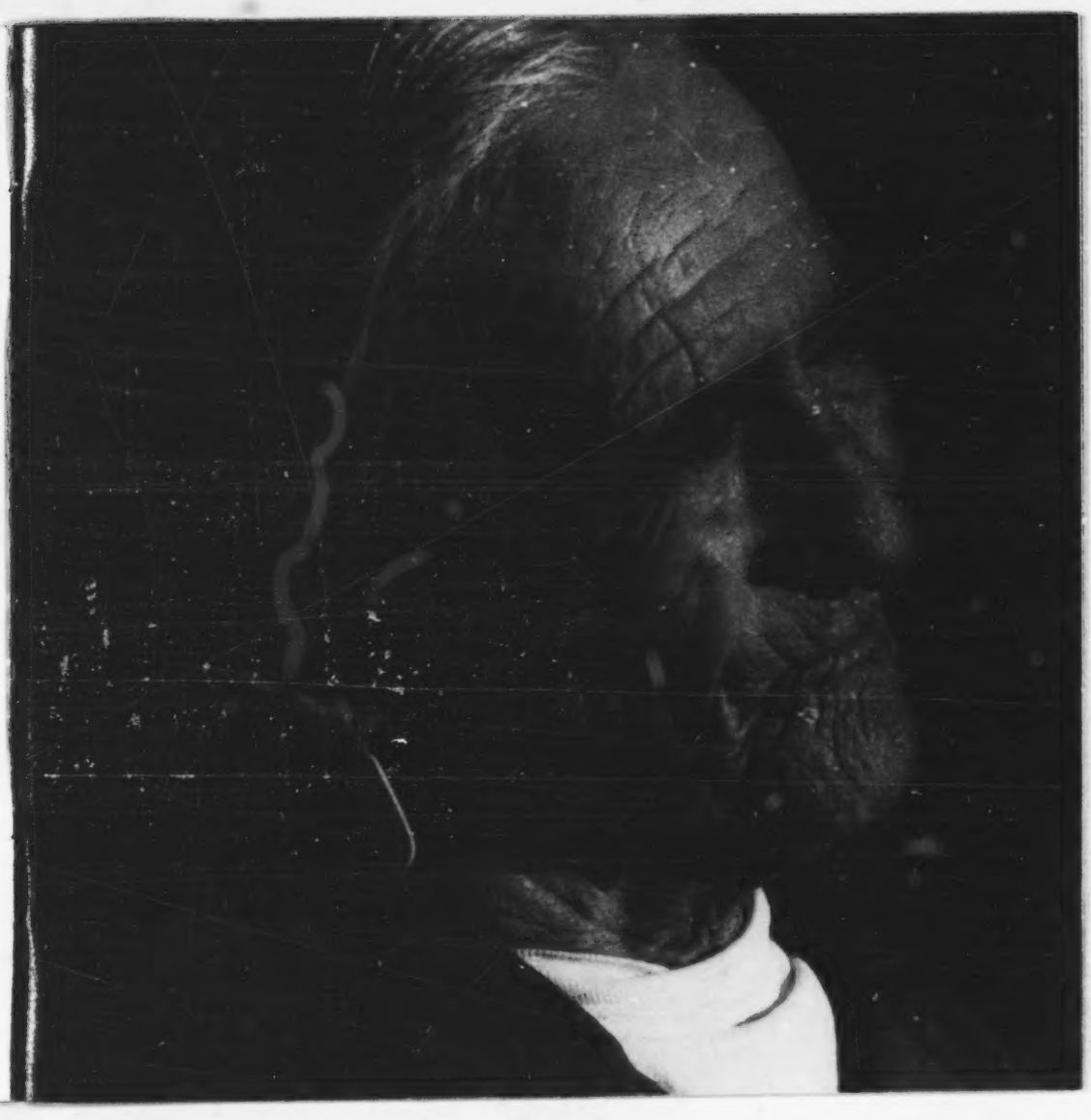
*Photographs by Claude Coireault, Thomas Kelly, Susanne Page, and Antonio Vizcaino, were made available courtesy of Meech Grant Productions, from the book and television series,* **Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World,** *by David Maybury-Lewis, Viking Penguin, 1992; by Jan Reynolds from:* **Far North** *and* **Frozen Land,** *Harcourt Brace & Co., 1992 & 1993; and by UN photographer, John Isaac (Qatuwas "People gathering together" Festival, Northwest Coast, Canada).*



*"Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself."*

**Native American Chief Seattle**
**(1788-1866), United States**

*There is only one eye of the needle through which the white strand, the red strand and the black must pass.*

**Maori proverb, New Zealand**

*"What hurts Indians most is that our costumes are considered beautiful, but it's as if the people wearing them didn't exist.."*

**Indian leader, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala**
**(Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1992; Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993)**

*"Unity through diversity is the only true and enduring unity."*

**United Nations Secretary-General**
**Boutros Boutros-Ghali, New York**

# Indigenous Peoples

***Who are the world's indigenous peoples?***

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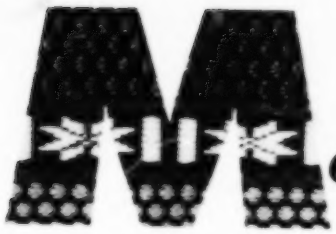
***They are the descendants of the first known peoples in their regions, strikingly different in their cultures, religions and patterns of social and economic organization from more recent immigrants, colonizers, and modernizers.***

***An estimated 300 million indigenous people live in more than 70 countries, from the Arctic to the Amazon, from Asia and Africa to Australia and New Zealand.***

***They are basically no longer remote and isolated people in remote and isolated places. But they are frequently treated as outcasts. In fact, together in all their variety, they are one of the modern world's most vulnerable and ill-treated groups.***



# odern World

***What does the modern world have to do with indigenous people?***

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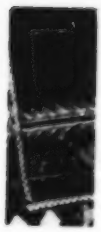
***The Arctic and tundra, the tropical and northern forests, the semi-arid rangelands, the mountains and wilder reaches of rivers and coastlines - these are the last frontiers for the modern, industrializing world, hungry for energy, minerals, timber, farmland, living space. They are also home to the world's indigenous peoples.***

***The fight to save these last ecosystems from the toxic effects of modern industrialization, and thereby rethink the whole meaning and processes of development and modernization, is in the interests not just of the indigenous peoples who live there but of all humanity on planet Earth - North, South, East and West - for the long term.***



# nternational Year

***International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993***

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***A new partnership for:***

***increased international cooperation in solving the problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, environment, development, education and health;***

***increased public awareness of the issues and of the concerns of indigenous people themselves, particularly in regard to land, resources, and the kind of development and change they want for their futures, their cultures, their ways of life.***

***increased effort to strike a balance between the legitimate aspirations of indigenous people and the genuine concerns of States.***

***The United Nations is currently drafting a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.***

# Working Group

***United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations***
***(created in 1982)***

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***Participation in the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations is open to all those who view it as an appropriate forum for their concerns, have historical continuity with societies that pre-date colonization, conquest and the creation of nation-states, and wish to preserve and develop their different identities.***

***In its early years, participants in the Working Group were small in number and came mainly from the Americas (especially North America), Scandinavia and Australia. Today, however, both the numbers and diversity have grown. With some 600 indigenous representatives, including a number from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, it is now, in fact, one of the largest groups working on human rights at the United Nations.***

***Indigenous participation in the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations since its creation in 1982***

## INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL

*Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact*
*Coordinadora de las Organizaciones de la Cuenca Amazónica*
*Coordinadora Regional de Pueblos Indios de Centroamérica*
*International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development*
*International Indian Treaty Council*
*International Indigenous Commission*
*Inuit Circumpolar Conference*
*Indian Council of South America*
*Indigenous Women's Network*
*Lauraretl'an Foundation, Inc.*
*Nordic Sami Institute*
*Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples*
*Sami Council*
*Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization*
*World Council of Indigenous Peoples*

## AFRICA

### Mali

*Survie Touareque Temoust*

### Namibia

*Kwanyama Tribe*

### Nigeria

*Ogoni*

### Rwanda

*Minorities Twa Du Rwanda*

### Tanzania

*East African Pastoralists*
*Hadzabe People*
*Korongoro Integrated Peoples Oriented to Conservation*
*Tanganikeld People*

## NORTH AMERICA

### Canada

*Algonquins of Barrier Lake*
*Assembly of First Nations*
*Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs*
*Barriere Lake Indian Government*
*Coalition of First Nations*
*Conseil Algonquin de l'Ouest de Quebec*
*Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais*
*Council of Conne River Micmacs*
*Cree Nation Youth Council*
*Cree Regional Youth Council*
*Dene Nation of Canada*
*Ermineskin Nation*
*Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*
*Four Nations*
*Four Nations of Hobbema*
*Grand Council of the Crees*
*Grand Council Treaty No. 3*
*Grand Council Treaty No. 9*
*Gull Bay Indian Band*
*Independent First Nations Alliance*
*Indigenous Survival International*
*Innu Kunanturapatuet*
*Innu National Council*
*Inter-Lake Tribal Council (Manitoba)*

*Inuit Tapariit of Canada*
*Jackhead Band (Manitoba)*
*Joseph Bighead First Nation*
*Lac Seul First Nation*
*Lil'wat Nation*
*Louis Bull Indian Nation*
*Manitoba Chiefs*
*Metis National Council*
*Mikmaq Grand Council*
*Mikmaq Nation*
*Mohawk Nation*
*Native Council of Canada*
*Native Women's Association of Canada*
*Nishnawbe-Aski Nation*
*Nuu Chah Nulth Tribal Council*
*Sampson Tribe of the Four Nations of Hobbema*
*Samson Cree Nation*
*Sarkeeny First Nation*
*Shoal Lake Ojibway First Nation*
*Stl'atl'imx Nation*
*Treaty Six Chiefs*
*Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations*
*Union of British Columbian Indian Chiefs*
*Union of New Brunswick Indians*
*White and Indian Band Canada*
*World Council of Native Women*

## United States of America

*Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp No. 84*
*Alaska Native Foundation*
*Apache Survival Coalition*
*American Indian Anti-Defamation Blackfeet Nation*
*Black Hills Teton Sioux Nation*
*Cheyenne Nations*
*Dakota Nations*
*Haudenosaunee - Mohawk Nation*
*Hawaii Nation*
*Hopi Indian Tribe*
*Indian Law Resource Center*
*Indian Youth Council*
*Indigenous Native American Task Force*
*Indigenous World / Mundo Indigena*
*Kauvelhi Dine Nation (Utah Navajos)*
*Keepers of the Treasures Cultural Council of American Indians*
*Knikatnu (Alaska Native Village Corporation)*
*Lakota Sioux*
*Lakota Treaty Council*
*Montana Cree Nation*
*Montana Indian Nation*
*Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán*
*National Chicano Human Rights Council*
*National Indian Youth Council*
*Navajo Nation*
*Navajo Nation - Navajo-Hopi Land Commission*
*North Pacific Rim Aluting*
*Office of Hawaiian Affairs*
*Oglala Lakota Legal Rights Fund*
*Ojibway Nation*
*Onondaga Nation*
*Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance*
*San Carlos Apache*
*Seneca Nation*
*Sovereignty for Hawaii Committee*
*Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council*
*Tsistsistas (Southern Cheyenne) Nation*
*Tuscarora Nation*
*United Indian Councils of the Mississauga and Chippewa*
*Western Shoshone Nation*
*Yupik Alaska*
*Yupt Nation*

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Belize

*Toledo Maya Council*
*Toledo Maya Cultural Council*

### Costa Rica

*Asociación Indígena de Costa Rica*

### Dominican Republic

*Pueblo of Santo Domingo*

### Guatemala

*Comité Campesino del Altiplano Cakchiquel*
*Comité de Unidad Campesina de Guatemala*
*Comité Organizador Indígena Cakchiquel*
*Consejo Central del Pueblo Cuatro Mártires del Pueblo Maya Cakchiquel de Guatemala*
*Consejo de las Naciones Mayas de Guatemala*
*Coordinación Maya "Majawil Quij"*
*Coordinadora Cakchiquel de Desarrollo Integral*
*Equipo de Trabajo Indígena de Guatemala*
*Movimiento Cooperativista Guatemalteco*
*Movimiento de Ayuda y Acción Solidaria Mayas*
*Parlamento Indígena de América*
*Representantes del habla Kakchiquel*

### Honduras

*Consejo Asesor Hondureño para el Desarrollo de las Etnias Autóctonas*

### Mexico

*Alianza de Profesionales Indígenas Bilingües*
*Asamblea de Autoridades Mixe*
*Azachis Zapoteca*
*Centro Mazahua*
*Consejo Regional de Indígenas Marginados Oaxaca*
*Federación Independiente de Pueblos Indios*
*Servicios del Pueblo Mixe A.C.*
*Thahtokan Tzkalotl*
*Unión de Comuneros "Emiliano Zapata" de Michoacán*
*Unión de Mujeres de San Antonio Yoadeje*
*Yankuikanahuak*
*Zapotec Nation*

### Nicaragua

*Comisión "Paz y Autonomía"*
*Indigenous Delegation of Nicaragua*
*Misatan*
*Miskitu People*
*Misurasata (Yatama)*
*Organización Miskito Misatán*
*Organizacion Sukawala*

### Panama

*Congreso General Guaymi*
*Movimiento Kuna*
*Nabguana - Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna*

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Argentina

*Asociacion Indígena de la República Argentina*
*Consejo Coordinador Naciones Indias Argentina*
*Frente Independiente de Pueblos Indios. Guaraní*
*Grupo Mujer Educación Indígena. Guaraní*
*Mapuches de Argentina*

### Bolivia

*Cecujala*
*Central Indígena del Oriente Boliviano*
*Centro Cultural de Jóvenes Aymaras*
*Centro de Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas del Occidente*
*Chitakolla Center*
*Comisión Pueblos Oriente Bolivia*
*Confederación Indígena del Oriente y Amazonia Boliviano*

*Consejo del Estudio Saber, Originario de la Confederación Nacional de Educadores Populares*
*Mouvement Tupak Katari*
*Movimiento Indio "Pedro Vilca Apaza"*
*Movimiento Juventud Aymara*
*Movimiento Revolucionario Tupak-katari de Liberación*
*Organización de Mujeres del Kollasuyo*
*Partido Indio de Liberación*

**Brazil**

*Commission for the Creation of the Yanomami Park*
*Conselho Indigena Potiguara*
*Conselho Indigena Roraima*
*Federacion de Tribus Xicuyues de Joro*
*Nucleo de Direitos Indigenas*
*Organizacion Indigena da Amazonia*
*Potiguara Peoples*
*Uniad das Nacoes Indigenas*
*Yavante*
*Yanomami*

**Chile**

*Agrupación Aucán*
*Aucán Mapuche*
*Centro Estudios y Documentación Mapuche*
*Comité Cultural Aymara (Pacha - Anu)*
*Comité Exterior Mapuche*
*Consejo de Todas las Tierras*
*Consejo Nacional de Pueblos Indigenas de Chile*
*Coordinadora de Organizaciones Mapuches*
*Federación of Aymar Markas*
*Mapuche People*
*Mapuches-Huilliche*
*Organización Mapuche Ad-Mapu*
*We Kintún Mapuche*

**Colombia**

*Consejo Regional Indigena del Tolima*
*Movimiento Social Indigena Quintin Lame*
*Movimiento Quintin Lame*
*Organización Nacional de Indigenas de Colombia*
*Organización Indigena Yanama*

**Ecuador**

*Comunidad Indigena Ishor*
*Confederación de Nacionalidades Indigenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana*
*Federación de Centros Shuar-Ashuar*
*Confederación de Nacionalidades Indigenas del Ecuador*
*Federación Shuar*
*Kechua*
*Movimiento Independiente Ecuador Ayllu*
*Organización Pichincha Riccharimui*
*Organización Pueblos Indigenas*

**Peru**

*Alianza Internaciones Inca*
*Amauta*
*Asociación de los Estudiantes Indigenas de Madre de Dios*
*Asociación Integral de Ganaderos en Camélidos de los Andes Altos*
*Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana*
*Centro de Culturas Indias Perú*
*Centro Unión Achuri*
*Chirapaq*
*Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tawantinsuyana*
*Confederación Campesina Indigena del Perú*
*Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazónicas del Perú*
*Federación Nativa del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluentes*
*Perú Kechua*

### Suriname

*Coordinadora Tunesaropa*
*Dwane Moeders Suriname*
*Lokonon of Suriname*
*12 Oktober Manifest*
*Tynasarapa of Suriname*
*Wayamu*
*Yarawato of Suriname*

### Venezuela

*Asociación Civil de Pueblos Indígenas Yupko*
*Consejo Nacional Indio de Venezuela*
*Movimiento Indio por la Identidad Nacional*

## ASIA

### Bangladesh

*Aboriginal Development Services of Bangladesh*
*Chakma People from the Chittagong Hill Tracts*
*Jumma Nation*

### India

*Centre for Tribal Conscientization*
*Dalit Nations of India*
*Indian Council of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples*
*Naga National Workers Confederation*
*Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights*
*Seed India*

### Iraq

*Mosul Vilayet Council*

### Japan

*Ainu Association of Hokkaido*

### Malaysia

*Iban - Sarawak*
*Sarawak Indigenous Peoples Alliance*

### Myanmar

*Kachin (Human Rights Committee for Burman Nationalities)*
*Kachin Independence Organization*
*Karen National Union*

### Philippines

*Cordillera Peoples Alliance*
*Aetas' Association of Western Luzon*
*Consultative Assembly of Minority Peoples of the Philippines*
*Lumad Mindanao*
*National Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines*

### Sri Lanka

*Vedda Community*

### Thailand

*Hmong People*

## AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE PACIFIC

### Australia

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission*
*Aboriginal Corporation*
*Aboriginal Nations*
*Australian South Sea Islanders United Council*
*Central Land Council*
*Council of Elders, Murray Island Torres Strait*
*Iina Torres Strait Islanders Corporation*
*Kimberly Land Council*
*National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organization*
*National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat*
*National Aboriginal Conference*
*National Aboriginal Professional and Businesswomen's Association*

*National Coalition of Aboriginal Organizations*
*National Committee to Defend Black Rights*
*National Federation of Land Councils*
*New South Wales Land Council*
*Northern Land Council*
*Secretariat for Aboriginal and Islander Child Care*
*Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre*
*Top End Aboriginal Coalition*
*Torres Strait Women*
*West Queenland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Legal Aid*

### New Zealand

*Representatives of Maori Aotearoa:*
*Ngati Te Ata Tribal Nation*
*Kaitahu*
*Raukawa*
*Ngaiterangi*
*Tearawa*
*Ngaitamarawaho*
*Taranaki*
*Ngatitewai*
*Ngati Tuwharatoa*
*Ngati Kahungunu Tribal Nation*
*Ngati Pikahi*
*Ngati Porou Tribal Nation*
*Ngati Raukawa*
*Te Rununga O Ngati Porou*
*Ngato Tuara*
*Pare Hauraki*
*Rangitane*
*Te Runanga O Ngati Awa*
*Maori Legal Service*
*Maori Women's Centre*
*National Maori Congress New Zealand*
*Waitangi Action Committee*

### Pacific

*Alliance of Taiwan Aborigines*
*Bougainville Republic*
*Free Papua Movement*
*Homeland Mission 1950 for South Moluccas*
*West Papuan Peoples Front*

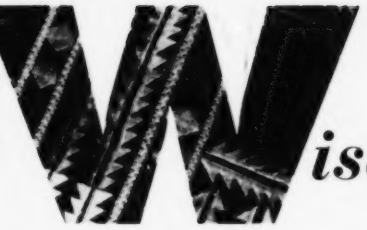
## EUROPE

### Denmark

*Greenland Homerule*

### Russian Federation

*Association of Peoples of the North*
*Chukchi*
*Dolgany*
*Evenу*
*Evenky*
*Koryaki*
*Kola Sami*
*Nentzy*
*Yakuty*



# isdom

*"We the peoples of the United Nations determined...*
*to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...."*

*Preamble to the United Nations Charter*

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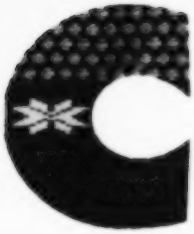
*Indigenous peoples the world over are, today, finding inspiration and support for their struggles, as others have, in the visionary words of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments of international law.*

*A Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, currently in the drafting stage, is a long awaited additional instrument of support. It is designed to encourage and cement new and equitable relations between States and the indigenous people within their borders, create a new partnership based on mutual respect and understanding throughout the international community.*



# Community

*"We the peoples of the United Nations determined...*
*to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another*
*as good neighbours...."*

*Preamble to the United Nations Charter*

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*As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, in 1995, the need to rededicate ourselves to the wisdom of its Charter becomes ever more urgent for all peoples.*

*Discrimination, dispossession, intolerance have been the lot of many peoples in human history - the dark threads we have in common.*

*Helping the world's indigenous peoples free themselves from their grip is the special focus of this International Year.*

# ealth

*"We the peoples of the United Nations determined...*
*to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples...."*

*Preamble to the United Nations Charter*

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*To live with and not against the only world we have is traditional wisdom that the modern world must relearn if the pursuit of economic and social development is to be sustainable - healthy for people and the environment, for the long term.*

*Indigenous peoples have been less forgetful than others of this essential truth.*

# Beauty

*"'Beauty is truth, truth beauty, - that is all*
*Ye know on. arth, and all ye need to know.'"*

*Ode on a Grecian Urn, John Keats (1795 - 1821)*

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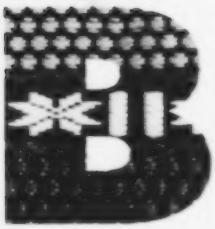
***The aesthetic thread in all human activity is one of the most powerful threads binding us together.***

***We have chosen to emphasize it in this Exhibit in an effort to reinforce the light strands against the dark, to celebrate the richness and variety of our common endeavours as we struggle to overcome our ugly and seemingly never-ending problems of discrimination and dispossession.***



# *asic Rights*

***Basic rights for which indigenous peoples are struggling:***

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***Participation without discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural life of their States...***

***Control of their own development and future ...***

***Control of their traditional lands and territories, and the resources therein...***

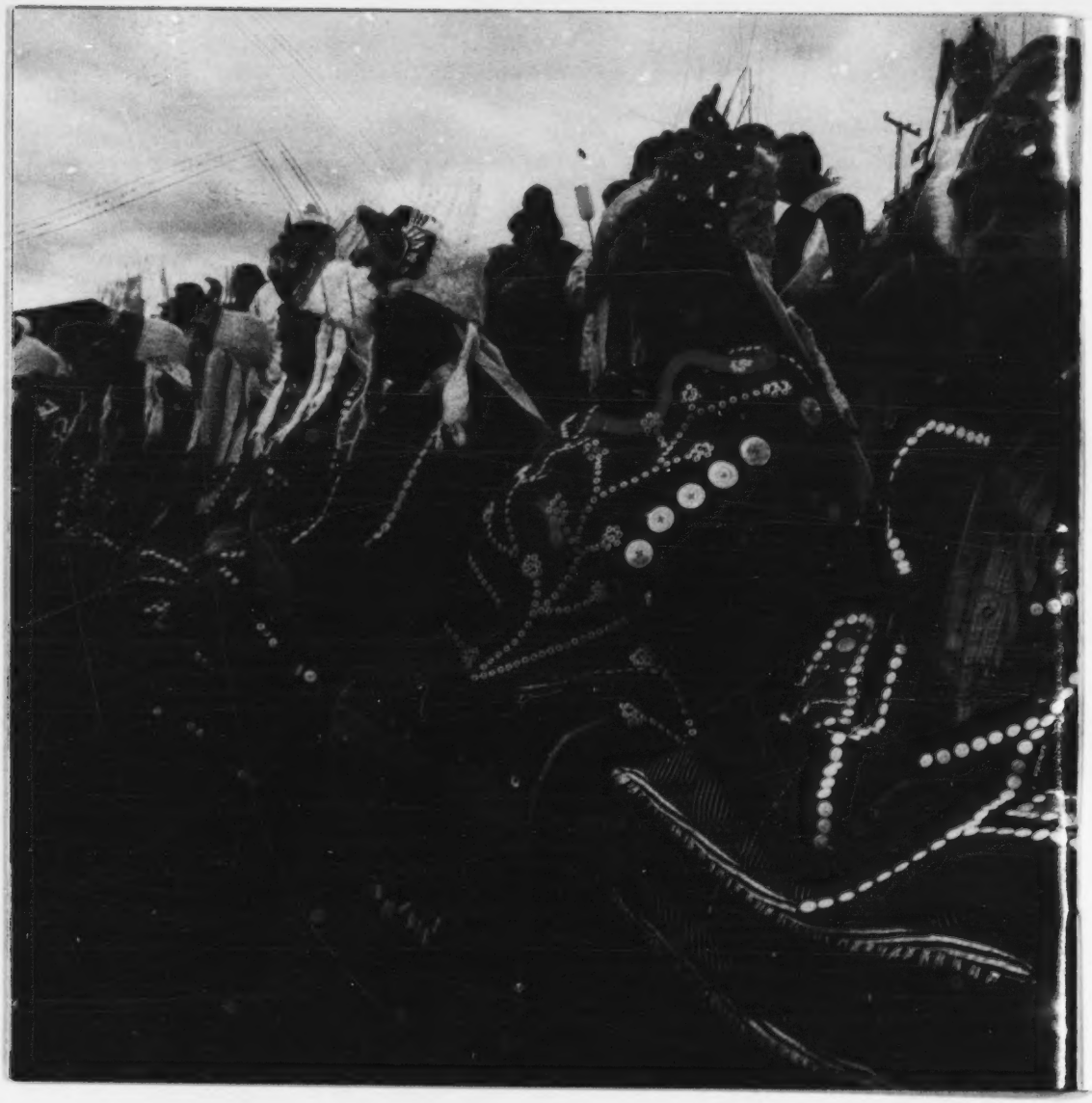
***Maintenance and development of their own languages and educational systems in order to preserve their traditions and ways of life...***

***Fair compensation for their lands...***

***Fair procedures for conflict resolution...***

***Protection of legitimate treaty rights and agreements in domestic and international law...***

***Protection against exploitation of their intellectual and cultural property:***
***traditional knowledge about medicine, plants, animals and the environment;***
***sacred sites and structures, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, folklore (oral and written), works of art...***



**United Nations Background to this International Year**

*The* **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** *was a pioneer on behalf of indigenous peoples. Two of its Conventions (No. 107 of 1957, revised as No. 169 of 1989) are at present the only instruments of international law recognizing their rights.*

**The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** *coined and defined the term "cultural property" in a series of Conventions (1954, 1970, 1972). A* **United Nations** *study is currently under way on how to protect the cultural and intellectual property of indigenous peoples.*

*A comprehensive study of discrimination against indigenous peoples was undertaken by the* **United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities** *in the 1970s. It was published as* **Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations.** *(United Nations E/CN.4/Sub.2/1986/7 and Add.1-4. The fifth volume,* **Conclusions, Proposals and Recommendations** *is available separately as Sales No. E.86.XIV.3).*

*The Sub-Commission's Study led to the creation of a specialized body - the* **United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations** *- in 1982. The Working Group has the two-fold task of reviewing recent developments and drafting a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

*The* **United Nations General Assembly** *is expected to proclaim a* **Decade of the World's Indigenous People,** *before this International Year ends in December.*

**Appeal for Contributions**

*The* **Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations** *provides financial assistance to indigenous representatives wishing to participate in the Working Group's meetings in Geneva.*

*The* **Voluntary Fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People** *provides funding for projects requested by indigenous communities.*

*Contributions to these Funds can be sent to:*

**The Centre for Human Rights,**
**United Nations,**
**Palais de Nations,**
**CH-1211 Geneva 10,**
**SWITZERLAND.**

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